GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2127
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2000
EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCILS
P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the various Export Promotion Councils in the country indicating their respective Regional Offices and their role in the promotion of exports;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to stop favouritism, partiality and irresponsibility which are prevailing in various Export Promotion Councils in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of the exporters of the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) There are 20 recognised Export Promotion Councils(EPCs) in the country.The list of these EPCs alongwith their Regional Offices is given in the enclosed statement. Each EPC is responsible for the promotion of a particular group of products, projects and services with the objective to promote and develop the exports of the country. Their main role is to project India`s image abroad as a reliable supplier of high quality goods and services. In particular, the EPCs are charged with the responsibility of encouragingand monitoring the observance of international standards and specifications by exporters, and keeping themselves abreast of the trends and opportunities in the international markets with a view to assisting their members in taking optimum advantage of such opportunities in order to expand and diversify exports.
(b) to (d) In view of the significant changes that have taken place in the international trade environment in recent years, especially after the conclusion of the Uruguay Round and the establishment of the WTO, it was felt necessary to restructure the Export Promotion Councils with a view to making them more responsive to the needs of their members as well as to introduce greater professionalism for improving the quality of the services being provided to their members. The Government have accordingly prescribed a set of model bye laws for adoption by the EPCs.Adoption of the model bye laws by the EPCs will lead to rationalisation of their administrative and election procedures thereby ensuring that real exporters have a more effective say in the management of the EPCs thus contributing to greater efficiency and transparency in their functioning.
With a view to giving greater attention to some important segments within an existing industry group and also to provide coverage to commodities or sectors presently not covered by any of the EPCs, a new vehicle viz. Export Promotion Forum (EPF) has been created. Permission for creation of an EPF may be considered on fulfillingthe prescribed conditions. However, such permission shall be subject to :

(a) The members agreeing to build up a corpus of Rs.1.00 crore when the entity is registered which should increase to Rs.3.00 crores within 4 years. The principal amount of the corpus shall be maintained intact and the EPF shall manage its expenses from the interest earnings, membership fees etc.

(b) The members of the EPF shall continue to be members of concerned EPC and shall continue topay the membership fee to the concerned EPC till such time as the EPF is not converted into anEPC. (This will not be applicable to industry segments not covered under any EPC).

(c) The staffing structure should be purely professional and as far as possible, the staff should be engaged on contract terms. The EPF shall meets its administrative expenses from itsown resources. No funding shall be provided to them by the Government for this purpose.
Subject to satisfactory performance on the basis of guidelines to be laid down by the Department of Commerce, the EPF will be eligible to be converted in a full-fledged EPC on completion of four years of its registration as an EPF. However, in the case of an EPC for industry segments not covered under any existing EPC, there will be no minimum waiting period.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2127 FOR ANSWER ON 1.12.2000.

Sl. No.	Name of the EPCs with Head office	Regional Offices

1. Electronics & Computer Software Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.	Bangalore
2. Engineering Export Promotion Council, Calcutta .	Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai, New Delhi Foreign Office- Chicago(USA), Duesseldorf(Germany), Singapore
3. Shellac Export Promotion Council,Calcutta.	It has no regional office.
4. Council for Leather Exports, Chennai.	New Delhi, Mumbai, Kanpur, Calcutta and Chennai
5. Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceutical & Cosmetics Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.	Bangalore, Calcutta
6. The Plastics & Lenoleums Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.	Calcutta, Chennai, New Delhi
7 Chemicals & Allied Products Export Promotion Council, Calcutta.	Mumbai, Chennai, New Delhi
8. Overseas Construction Council of India, New Delhi.	It has no regional office.
9. Gems & Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.	Delhi, Jaipur, Surat, Chennai & Calcutta
10. Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.	Jalandhar
11. Cashew Export Promotion Council, Cochin.	It has no regional office. However its Quality Upgradation Lab. & Technical Division is located at Quilon.
12. Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi	It has no regional office. However,one man information centre are operating at Bangalore, Chennai & Calcutta.
13. The Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.	It has no regional office.
14. Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.	Erode(Tamil Nadu)
15. Wool & Woolens Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.	Ludhiana, Mumbai, Tirupur
16. The Handloom Export Promotion Council, Chennai.	New Delhi, Mumbai
17. Carpet Export Promotion Council,New Delhi	Bhadohi
18. The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.	Surat, Chennai, Delhi, Calcutta
19. The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.	New Delhi, Chennai, Calcutta,Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Coimbatore, Cochin, Tuticorn, Bangalore, Pithampur, Nhava Seva (JNPT)
20. Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.	New Delhi, Jaipur, Ludhiana,Surat,Mumbai Chennai, Tirupur, Bangalore, Cochin, Calcutta.